



Malheur Foray
May 31-June 4, 2023
Tentative Trip Itinerary

Wednesday, May 31 Meet at our departure location in Portland, Oregon. Group introductions and load vans. Our travel day will include birdwatching stops at the Crooked River and Sage Hen Rest Area as we make our way to Burns, Oregon for our first night. After dinner, we'll head out for sunset birding in the Silvies Floodplain, where Long-billed Curlews and Sandhill Cranes are often spotted in early June.

Lodging: Rory & Ryan Inn, Burns, Oregon

Thursday, June 1 After continental breakfast at the hotel, we'll head north to the Ponderosa Pine forest at Idlewild Campground, seeking various woodpeckers, Cassin's Finch and possible Clark's Nutcracker. We'll have a picnic among the pines then make our way to refuge Headquarters for a leisurely ramble around the grounds of this famous songbird oasis in the high desert. Our afternoon will include a stop at Buena Vista Ponds Overlook for a short hike and overview of the Blitzen Valley before arriving at Frenchglen Hotel, our base of operations for the remainder of the tour. An optional, post-dinner visit to the spectacular Turkey Vulture roost at P-ranch rounds out this full day.

Lodging: Frenchglen Hotel

Friday, June 2 This day will be dedicated to exploring the wet meadows, lakes, rimrock and riparian forests of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. We'll be on the lookout for stilts, avocets and phalaropes, Bobolink, Common Nighthawk, Loggerhead Shrike and Yellow-breasted Chat, among many, many others. We'll picnic at Krumbo Reservoir, a good spot for deep water birds, and take an afternoon spin down "raptor alley" hoping for visits with Golden Eagle, Ferruginous Hawk and Prairie Falcon.

Lodging: Frenchglen Hotel

Saturday, June 3 After breakfast, we'll head to P Ranch for a short walk along the Blitzen River, before pointing south towards the Alvord basin on the east side of Steens Mountain. Along the way, we'll bird the beautiful Catlow Valley and the famous Fields Oasis, where Great Horned Owls are known to nest, along with a wide variety of migrant songbirds. We'll picnic at Fields Station, and time and weather permitting we may also explore Alvord or Borax Lakes before returning to Frenchglen for our last dinner together.

Lodging: Frenchglen Hotel

Sunday, June 4 We'll breakfast after an optional, early-morning bird walk to Barnes Springs, hoping for good looks at Lazuli Bunting and other open country birds. Then we pack up the vans and head back to Portland, stopping multiple times for birds along the way.

Trip Leaders

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